



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF  
FOR

SERIAL NO.  
FILED  
CONFIRMATION NO.  
EXAMINER  
ART UNIT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

Stephen John Lee  
IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING  
TO REFRACTORY PRODUCTS  
09/856,609  
November 26, 1999  
9900  
Scott R. Kastler  
1742  
BE7344PCT(US)

8/c  
Ab  
12/13/02

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

**BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT**  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED  
DEC 11 2002  
TO 1700 MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 30, 2002, entry of the following amendments is respectfully requested:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:  
Please insert the following abstract:

ABSTRACT

A refractory device for use in the teeming of molten metal comprising a ceramic body having a ceramic pouring tube element (10, 20) and a ceramic support element (12, 22), said support element being adapted to be received within a metallic can (11, 21), and there is provided between said elements a pyroplastic shock-absorbing interface zone (13, 24) wherein there is provided a material the thermal properties of which are such that it is substantially solid